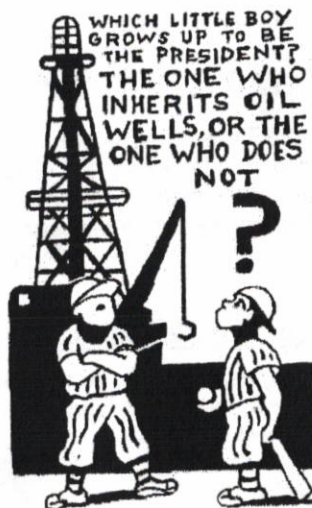


religion, consumerism, pop culture, the body, oppression and more. Her work has been displayed in a variety of ways including exhibitions in art galleries, on billboards around the world, on t-shirts, shopping bags, matchboxes, television and more.

Seth Tobocman:

<http://www.worldwar3illustrated.com/>

Seth Tobocman, comic book artist has lived in the Lower East side of Manhattan since 1978. He began publishing the radical comic book, *World War Three Illustrated* in 1979-80 with the help of Peter Kuper. They both still work on that magazine today along with many other artists. He has been involved in the anti-war movement, the squatters movement and now the movement against corporate globalization. Has authored two books, *YOU DON'T HAVE TO FUCK PEOPLE OVER TO SURVIVE* and *WAR IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD*. His work has been used on posters by peoples movements around the world.



Women Make Movies: <http://www.wmm.com/>

Women Make Movies is a multicultural, multiracial, non-profit media arts organization which facilitates the production, promotion, distribution and exhibition of independent films and videotapes by and about women. Women Make Movies was established in 1972 to address the under representation and misrepresentation of women in the media industry. The organization provides services to both users and makers of film and video programs, with a special emphasis on supporting work by women of color.

Political Art

a resource zine
by ailecia ruscin, the
alabama grrrl

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Eric Drooker: <http://www.drooker.com/>

Eric Drooker has lived in Lower Manhattan his whole life. After a stint as a factory and office worker, he began hustling his artwork on the streets of Greenwich Village. He believes art should be affordable to everyone and prints a lot of his work on posters hung on the streets of NYC.

Dyke TV: <http://www.dyketv.org/>

Dyke TV is a half-hour monthly television program produced by lesbians, for lesbians. They mix news, political commentary, the arts, health, sports, and much more to present lesbian lives-in all their variety-with intelligence and humor. Since their debut in Manhattan on June 8, 1993, Dyke TV now airs in 50 cities across the United States.

The Guerilla Girls <http://www.guerillagirls.org>

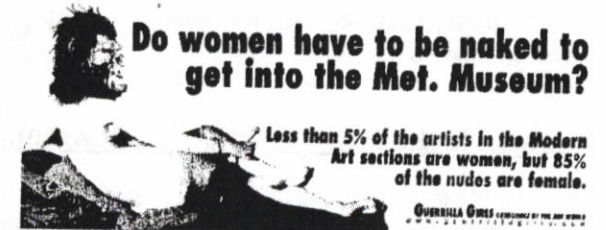
The Guerrilla Girls, established in 1985 are a group of women artists, writers, performers and film makers who fight discrimination. Dubbing themselves "the

conscience of culture", they declare themselves feminist counterparts to the mostly male tradition of anonymous do-gooders like Robin

Hood, Batman, and the Lone Ranger. They wear gorilla masks to focus on the issues rather than their personalities. In 17 years they have produced over 80 posters, printed projects, and actions that expose sexism and racism in politics, the art world and the culture at large. The mystery surrounding their identities has attracted attention.

Barbara Kruger

Barbara Kruger is most known for her photo montages mixing image with text. One of her most famous pieces was used as a poster for the 1989 Pro-Choice March on Washington. It proclaimed, "Your body is a Battleground". Her work declares statements on capitalism,



Artist and Art Collectives To Know About:

Beehive Design Collective: www.beehivecollective.org/

The Beehive Design Collective makes large format posters like the one below on biotechnology. They live in Maine and invite people to come and apprentice in mosaic.



Introduction

Why use art in activism?

Because American mainstream culture is stagnant and we want to add some color to it...

Because advertisers use art to convince us to buy, buy, buy, so we should use art to help others see the realities of our material existence...

Because resistance can be fun and creative...

Because art is a good tool to use to reach a larger spectrum of the population...

Because we need art to help us heal from the realities of living in this system...

Because we want to employ our artistic friends for our own movements instead of forcing them to work for the advertising industry...

Disclaimer: nothing in this zine is very earth-shattering. I have learned about using art in activism from some amazing people. This zine is a compilation of information on ways to incorporate art into activism and historical documentation of artists and art collectives that are using art in interesting ways.

This is not a definitive booklet on all of the ways people can incorporate art into activism. I have left out information on puppet shows, street theatre, linocut, screenprinting, and tons of other artistic/political endeavors. Use this material, re-define it, make it your own, add to it, subtract from it... this is just a resource zine. It's yours now... play with it!

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Sprucing Up Your Protest/Rally/Demo with Puppets and Creative Signs.

Protests, Rallies, and Demonstrations can be livened up with the help of some puppets and creative signs. Have you ever driven by a pro-life poster line with everyone holding identical stencil-drawn lettered signs? Boring! Or how about the police protesting Mumia with hand-drawn barely legible poster boards? Boring! Thank goodness our movements have caught on to using puppets and creative signs. They can be used to set the mood, whether you want to make it festive or solemn. Puppets and easily read signs are important tools for relaying the message to your audience and also to be captured by photographers working for the media. For really great sketches and a how-to explanation for making puppets go here: <http://www.gis.net/~puppetco/>. **Quick tip:** turn ordinary rectangle cardboard signs into circles and other shapes, then paint the background with a solid color, add a different color border and your message and instantly you have a much more interesting sign to look at.

★ Puppets ★



Puppet at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, August 2000. Found at: <http://www.ruckus.org/gallery/originals/14.jpg>

How to Make a Suspended Banner: (Adapted from a Ruckus Pamphlet by Kim & Amelia)

1. Take the fabric and lay it out and begin sewing the smaller pieces together to make a large piece. (Keep in mind your target banner hanging spot, you won't want to drop a 10 foot banner off the top of a 300 foot building — people below will barely be able to see it.) It is recommended that you use upholstery thread, because it is stronger. Borrow a sewing machine to make this process quicker. Double up your hems for stronger banners.
2. Reinforce the corners and places where you will put grommets to add strength to your banner so it will not rip when you do the drop.
3. Hem the edges of your banner twice for strength. For lighter weight fabric, sew in webbing along hem to make it thicker for durability before adding grommets.
4. Add grommets to the top and along the edges, every place that you will need to tie rope in order to do the drop.
5. Now that your banner is prepared, get ready to paint. But FIRST begin mapping out your image and the lettering. You can do this by using graph paper or lined paper. Measure your banner to decide how large it is so you can map it out.
6. To map it out, count all lowercase letters, numbers and spaces as 1 unit, except: m & w which are 1 ½ units and f, i, j, l, and t are ½ unit. All capital letters count as 1 ½ units except: M & W which are 2 units and I is 1 unit. Punctuation counts as 1 ½ units.
7. Rough method for determining letter spacing: measure the length of the space on the banner, divide the length by the total number of units of letters and spaces (which you figure out by using the measurements above) and you will figure out how many inches your letters need to be.
8. Then using a ruler and a pencil, sketch out the words and the image for your banner. Once you are satisfied, get ready to start painting.
9. Before you start painting, make sure to test a piece of the fabric with the paint you have. Some fabrics don't work with certain paints. (Don't forget to put something underneath the banner so it won't bleed down onto the floor.)
10. Then begin painting. Make sure you have a large enough space to paint or be ready to only do a section at a time, making sure the paint is thoroughly dry before you fold it over to start the next section.
11. Then cut flaps in your banner to allow air to go through, so it won't bow out like a sail.
12. Lastly, attach weights of some kind to the bottom of the banner if you can't tie it down, this will prevent it from blowing too badly in the wind. (I've used empty water bottles, rocks, and boards before.) Make sure to sew or tie in the weights well so they don't fall on people below.

Suspended Banners

Suspended Banners (ones you hang off of things) are good for actions where you need something large to convey the message or you want to call attention to a certain area. Ideas of places to drop a banner: off an overpass during rush hour, off the roof of a chain store, or near an action to call attention to the action.

Materials: Fabric, Paint, Grommets, Needle & Upholstery Thread, Scissors, Ruler

Here's some advice on how to get materials to make a banner. When I need to make a banner I call up the local Holiday Inn and explain to them that I am an art student looking for any old sheets they could donate for a project I'm working on. Every time I've called, they've told me to come on by and gave me a huge bundle of old sheets. You can also order parachute or sail material that is lighter weight and sometimes better for making really large banners. (The following companies sell nylon sailcloth and banner fabrics:

Noah Lamport (213) 663-3209 & Brookwood Roll Goods (310) 515-7001.)

For cheap paint, call your local recycling place and ask them when their next hazardous waste center drop off times will be. Find out when it is and show up and

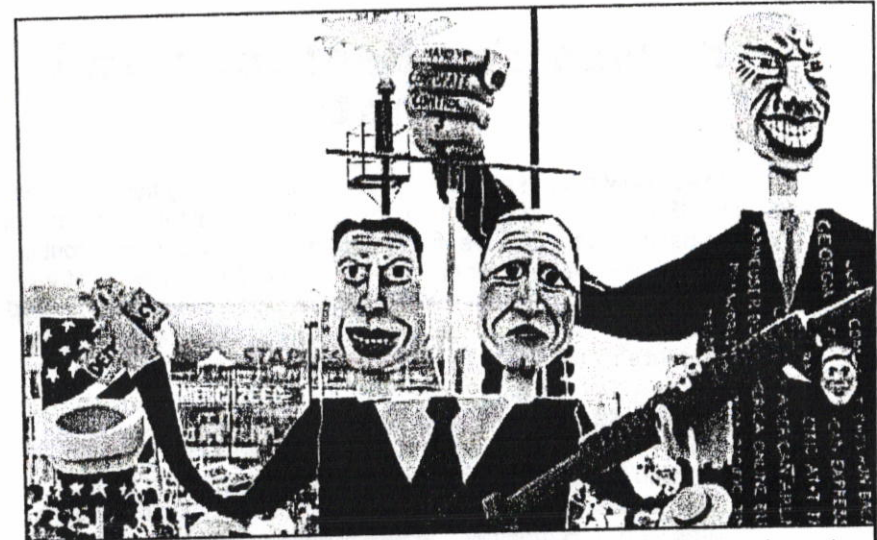


explain to the workers that you are an art student in need of old paint for a project. Most of the time, they will give them to you. In many

smaller towns, they only do this 4 times a year, so it's best to go ahead and collect paint if you foresee yourselves needing paint in the future. Another way to collect paint or other art supplies is to flyer your neighborhood with a list of things you need and ask your neighbors to put these items they are willing to get rid of on their front porch on a designated day for you and your "art collective" to pick up.

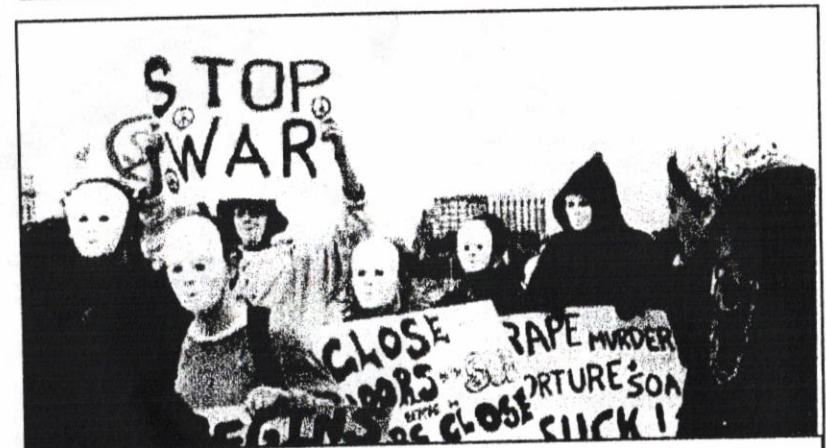
You will probably need to buy or borrow the other supplies, though I've heard that some people have used beer bottle tops for grommets or just sew in washers.

A Boulder peace activist group named La Mitzvah hung a banner from a crane in downtown Denver. Accessed at: <http://www.wagepeacenow.org/>



Puppets at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, August 2000. Found at: <http://www.ruckus.org/gallery/originals/4.jpg>

★ Props and Posters Mixed to Relay Message ★



Masks and Posters at the School of the Americas Pentagon Action in DC, May 1-4, 1999. My photo: <http://members.tripod.com/ailecia/SOAphotos/page3.html>

Flyers for Meetings and Events

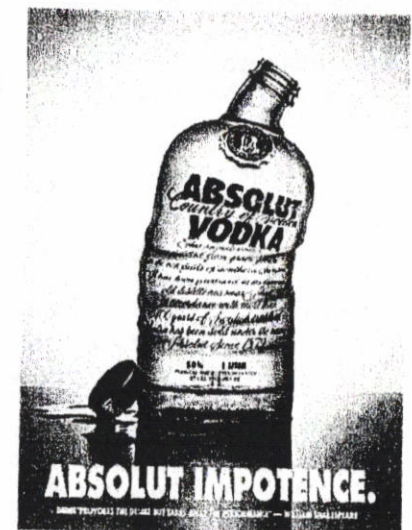
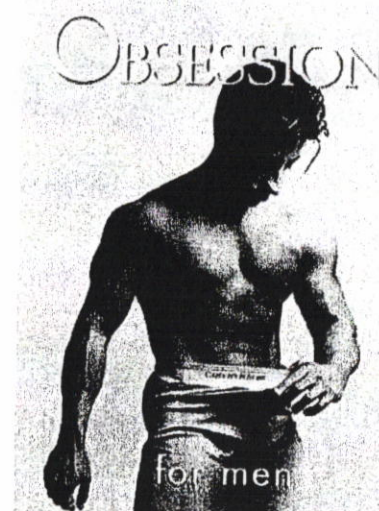
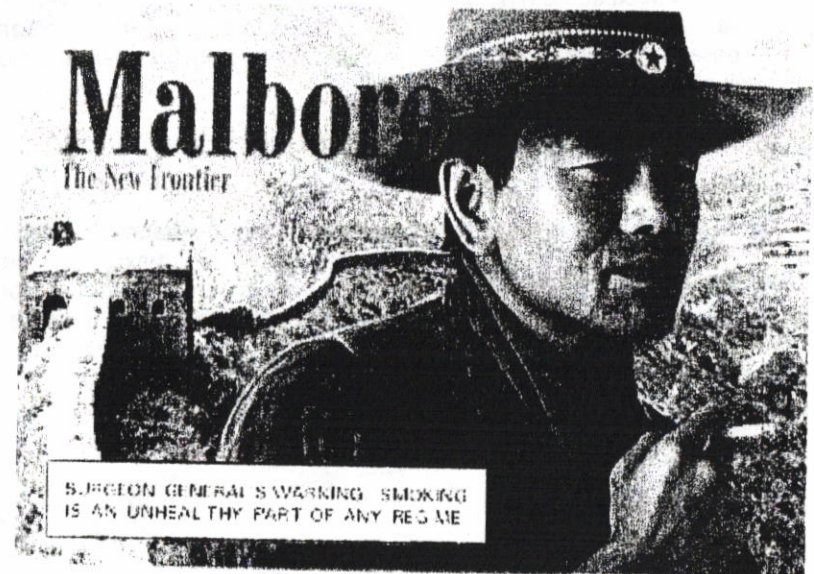
I have to say how much I absolutely can not stand boring flyers. A basic rule is to **NEVER** use the Times New Roman font for anything. It is boring and over-used. Flyers that are made with the Times New Roman font in varying font sizes are very boring: save it for the Career Center at the local college. (Also, Conference Materials can also be very hard to read and look at if you don't use some basic formatting skills like bold fonts, increased font size for headings, and changes in fonts.)

Here are some tips to make your flyers less boring:

1. Use 1-3 fonts to mix up the flyer and make it look different. I wouldn't suggest using 10 or 15 different fonts on a page because it will make it look a little too busy. Stick to 1-3 fonts that work well together.
2. Find an **image** for your flyer. Even a boring image will make a flyer look better. Ask your artist friends to draw images for you, or steal some off the internet. (To steal an image off the internet, find the image, put your mouse arrow over the image and then Right Click on it. A menu will pop-up, at that point you can select "Save Picture As" and save it to your hard drive for later use, or select "Copy" to copy it to your computer's clipboard. Then, in your document, go to the



★ Adbusters' Images ★



I made some spoof GAP ads one year by stealing GAP's ads off their website and changing the text from "Everybody in leather" to "Everybody in Dead Animal Skin". By using their graphics, they looked more "real".

Billboard Liberation & Subvertisements

Billboard altering and subvertisements are handy tools in the toolbox that can be used to take what has been given to us by the advertising industry and corporate America and give it a little twist, either for amusement or education. I haven't done too much of this, so I will point in the direction of folks who have:

The Billboard Liberation Front: 25 years of billboard liberation. Read their manifesto and see their gallery of altered billboards.
<http://www.billboardliberation.com/> Also use their how-to guide called "The Art & Science of Billboard Improvement"
<http://www.billboardliberation.com/resources/manual.html>

Suvertisement.org's Mission: To work within the system to disseminate factual information, while providing a venue for others to do the same, so that we may effectively exploit the advertising and consumerism rampant in society and use them to promote positive social change.
<http://www.subvertisement.org/>

Adbusters: The queens and kings of altered logos! They do spoof ads and uncommercials and put out a pretty good magazine.
<http://www.adbusters.org/>

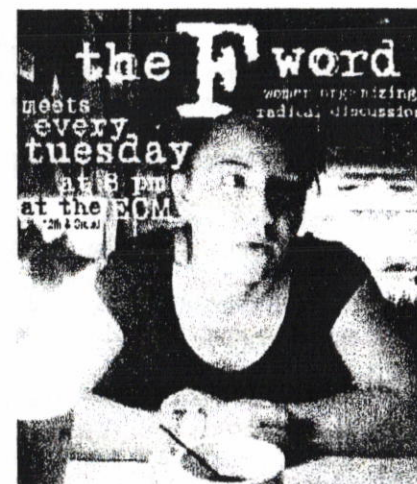


Billboard Liberation Front's December 1977 action. Accessed at: <http://www.billboardliberation.com/actions/facts.html>

Edit menu and select "Paste" (Ctrl-V is the shortcut). To insert an image that you've saved on your hard drive using Microsoft Word go to "Insert", "Picture", "From File" and then select the image and it will insert it into your document. Then click on the image and a toolbar will appear where you can change the contrast of your image, add borders, and decide if you want the text to wrap around the image.

- Experiment with **borders, black backgrounds, and text boxes.**

It is important to break the text up so that people aren't too overwhelmed to read the flyer. One way to cheat is to print your flyer (as boring as it may be) and then go to the copy shop and open up the copier and hit copy. A black sheet of paper will come out. Then cut your text out and you can arrange it on the black sheet of paper and paste it into place to make it look interesting.



- Find an interesting image and use it as a **background**. Arrange your text on the image by cutting and pasting or by using a program like Adobe Photoshop.
- Use **colored paper** when making copies of your flyer. It's harder to find free copies on colored paper, but sometimes it is worth the money to get it done on colored paper.
- Use a **colored ink** on white paper. Some copy shops have a specific color day when you can for example, go in on a Monday and get Red ink on white paper for the same price as regular black and white copies.
- Check out: <http://www.utanimalrights.com/primer/flier.htm> for more technical information on how to make a better flyer.

This is a flyer I made for a feminist group where I used a photo as a background and arranged text using Photoshop. (The bottom that you can't read in a small form is text about the group. If the text were the main part of the flyer, it would have been pretty boring. The picture [hopefully] catches people's eyes, and then those who are interested can read the small text.)

So, you wanna take your message to the streets, eh?

There are multiple ways to take your message to the streets. The methods I am about to describe: wheatpasting and stenciling are ILLEGAL if done in public. So, of course I am teaching you how to do this to help you redecorate the inside of your apartment.

★ Wheatpasting ★

Wheatpasting is a way of putting up your own art or your own political propaganda in a more permanent manner than using tape or staples. Wheatpaste is a mixture of flour and water that makes a great adhesive that is difficult to remove from the surface you apply it to.

This is an easy way to use wheatpaste: Mix up your wheatpaste mixture and put it in a bucket (see recipe below). Take a paintbrush and apply the wheatpaste to the surface, then put the flyer over it and then cover the flyer in the wheatpaste. Make sure to smooth down the corners and edges so that it is harder for people to tear down.

Other people use different methods of wheatpasting. I was advised to try wallpaper glue. Mix it up and then put it in a spray bottle (or water bottle) and spray (or squirt) it on the surface instead of using a paintbrush.

You can wheatpaste anytime you want to, but some are compelled to do it at night with look-outs keeping watch for on-lookers. One thing to note is that you will definitely get wheatpaste all over your clothes when you are out wheatpasting so make sure to wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Some people also like using latex gloves for easy clean-up.

Wheatpaste Recipe

Prepare 1 cup of very hot water. Make a thin mixture of 3 tablespoons of white flour and cold water. Pour the cold mixture slowly into the hot water while stirring constantly. Bring to a boil. When it thickens, allow to cool. For slightly better strength, add 1 tablespoon of sugar after the glue is thickened. After using a portion, reheat the remaining in a covered jar or container to sterilize it for storage or keep refrigerated. If wheat flour is not available, other flours will work.

There's also **stickering**, take your design to the local copy shop and get it copied onto sticker paper. You can fit 6-30 per page depending on the size of your image and message. Then hit the town or bathroom stalls.

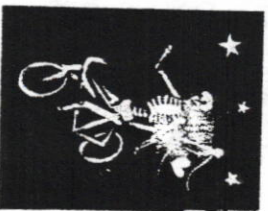
★ Stenciling ★

Stencils are a lot of fun for creating nice designs that can be quickly spraypainted onto walls. To make a stencil you will need the following:

- an idea for a design
- cardboard or plastic acetate or thick paper
- exacto knife or box cutter or razor blade
- pencil or pen to sketch out design if you so wish
- tape to correct errors you made in cutting and to help when you go out to stencil

To make a stencil, first take your cardboard or plastic acetate or thick paper (phone book covers work well) and draw out your design, or tape down your design that you've gotten from somewhere. (Paper and cardboard will eventually get destroyed with use; acetate is a good alternative for making stencils that will last longer.)

Then begin cutting out the design, keeping in mind that you want to make sure to leave bridges to the main part of the cardboard so that you don't lose an entire design. (Picture those stencil letters you can buy from a school supply store, if you were drawing a stencil of an O you would need little bridges to make it possible.) In general it helps if you start from the outside of the design and work inside. If you mess up, use some tape as a bridge. If I didn't explain this well, feel free to go here: <http://gutz.com/guides/stencil/> and read their description.



After you have cut your design, I like to use a piece of tape to tape up my stencil while I'm spraypainting. It also makes it easy to carry while it's wet with spraypaint.

Spraypaint advice: The more expensive the spraypaint, in general, the better it is for doing illegal stenciling or graffiti. The 99 cent spraypaints are watered down and cause drip, my favorite brand is Rust-O-Leum, I find that it doesn't drip nearly as much as the cheap stuff or even Krylon.

Tip: use a pizza box. If you cut your stencil on one side of the box, then you can throw your spraypaint into the box and walk around town with the pizza logo out, so people will just think you're walking home with a pizza instead of stenciling the town.

After you have mastered the one color stencil, start thinking about ways to make a multi-layered multiple-color stencil.